**Workshop on the role of whole sale markets for urban food distribution system in Asia**

1726. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a four day workshop on the role of wholesale markets for urban food distribution system in Asia, was held near Delhi at Surajkund on 4th November, 1996;

(b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made thereat especially with regard to dominant role being assumed by MNCs in the area of food production and processing industry; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFARIS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The workshop made certain general recommendations. There were, however, no observations and suggestions on the role of MNCs in the area of food production and processing industry.

**Measures for the safety of coal mines**

1727. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Indian Express dated 9th November, 1996 under the caption Jharia's 1.5 lakh sitting on a powder-keg; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be adopted to ensure safety of the coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) some of the steps being taken to ensure safety in coal mines are as under:—

1. The internal safety organisation has been strengthened by providing additional power for enforcement of safety practices;
2. System of periodic safety audit has been introduced;
3. close monitoring of safety status of highly gassy mines and fiery mines is being done;
4. Timber suppect is being phased out with steel support;
5. Tele-communication from underground mines to the surface is being introduced in a phased manner;
6. A large number of high head high capacity pumps have been produced for emergency de-watering;
7. automatic Mathane and fire alarms have been provided in degree III gassy mines fiery mines;
8. Orders have been placed for highly capital intensive safety equipment like large diameter rescue drill and operation and maintenance personnel have been selected;
9. Additional rescue have been planned so that rescue teams are able to reach any mine within 30 minutes of receiving any information of emergency.

**Production of different grades of coal**

1728. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production of different grades of coal both from underground mines and open cast mines in the country;

(b) the percentage of the best grade coal of total production from both underground and open cast mines; and

(c) details of efforts being made to increase best grade quality of coal especially from underground mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The details of gradewise coal production both from underground mines and opencast mines in the country during 1995-96 are as under:—

| | (million tonnes) |
|---|---|
| Coking Coal | 40.10 |
| Non-Coking | |
| Grade A | 4.76 |
| B | 20.22 |
| C | 53.65 |
| D | 37.40 |
| E | 39.68 |
| F | 74.31 |
| G | 0.01 |
| | 230.03 |
| TOTAL | 270.13 |

(b) The percentage of the coking coal as well as superior grade of non-coking coal (A,B&C) from both underground and opencast mines is 43.95% of the total raw coal production during 1995-96.

(c) Details of efforts being made to increase best grade quality of coal especially from underground mines are as under:—

(i) Opening up of new mines and increasing efficiency and productivity in existing mines by modernisation, application of new technologies and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

(ii) The capital base of Coal India Limited has been restructured to enable it to raise from the capital market additional financial resources which are required to add to new coal production capacity.

(iii) Co-ordination on continuous basis with the Railways is maintained to remove transportation bottlenecks in such coalfield areas which have potential for enhanced production.

(iv) Private sector companies engaged in production of iron and steel, cement and generation of power have been permitted to take up coal mining for their own use. This is expected to increase domestic coal production.

**महाराष्ट्र में बाल-श्रम प्रणाली के उन्मूलन हेतु योजना**

1729. **श्री सूर्यभान पाटील वडाडणे:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या महाराष्ट्र राज्य के कुछ जिलों में बाल-श्रम प्रणाली के उन्मूलन की कोई योजना बनाई गयी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन जिलों का नाम एवं उनमें की जाने वाली कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) बाल-श्रम प्रणाली के उन्मूलन की राह में बाधा उत्पन्न करने वाले लोगों के खिलाफ कानूनी कार्यवाही करने के लिए सरकार कौन-कौन से कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) इस संबंध में अब तक कितने लोगों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही हुई है?

**श्रम मंत्री (श्री एम० अरूणाचलम):** (क) और (ख) राष्ट्रीय बाल श्रम परियोजना स्कीम इस समय महाराष्ट्र सहित 11 बाल श्रम बहुल राज्यों में कार्यान्वित की जा रही है। इस योजना के अंतर्गत जोखिमकारी व्यवायों में कार्यरत बालकों को कार्य से हटा कर विशेष स्कूलों में डाला जाता है जहां उन्हें गैर पारम्परिक शिक्षा, व्यवसायिक प्रशिक्षण, पोषणाहार, स्वास्थ्य देख-रेख और वजीफा प्रदान किया जाता है। 74 विशेष स्कूलों के माध्यम से 3677 कामकाजी बालकों के पुनर्वास के लिए महाराष्ट्र राज्य में थाणे और शोलापुर जिलों के लिए